

1737 Las Palmas Ave #104
Hollywood, CA 90028

February 4, 2001

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U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals-docket number 98P-0151/CP1. I believe animals that are injured or too sick to stand should be forbidden to enter the human food chain.

These animals pose an increase in risk for bacteria; evidence shows downed animals may be linked to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease." This disease can result in fatal human illness.

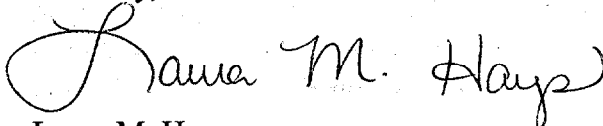
Downed animals make up a very small percentage of the animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no economic hardship. In addition to this, it is unattainable to move these animals humanely. They are typically moved by being dragged with chains or pushed by tractors. These processes result in the downed animals receiving bruises, abrasions, broken bones, and torn ligaments. Some of these animals are abandoned and die slowly from neglect at stockyards across the country.

Experts in the industry have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Eliminating these animals from the market will provide an incentive to the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

I urge you to do everything possible to end this suffering for downed animals.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Laura M. Hays

98P-0151

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